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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/478,299	01/05/2000	John L. Schenk	22091-701	1509

7590 08/26/2004

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EXAMINER

MELLER, MICHAEL V

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1654

DATE MAILED: 08/26/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/478,299

Applicant(s)

SCHENK, JOHN L.

Examiner

Michael V. Meller

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 June 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 38-65 and 67 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 40,41,55,56,60-62,65 and 67 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 38, 39, 42-54, 57-59, 63, 64 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

The election/restriction of record is maintained.

Claims 40, 41, 55, 56, 60-62, 65, 67 are withdrawn from further consideration as being drawn to non-elected subject matter.

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claims 38, 39, 42-54, 57-59, 63, 64 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

There is still no support in the specification for the ranges of sperm cells claimed. Applicant has not addressed this rejection but it is still valid. There is no support for limitations such as, "to at least about 5 million per milliliter to at least about 10 million

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per milliliter of extender", "equine sperm cells between about 1,000,000 million and about 25,000,000".

The time limitation still has no support. In fact, as applicant noted, they have support for 1-18 hours, which clearly is more than 6 hours.

There is no support for "without the presence of protective compounds in seminal plasma". Nowhere can such support be found. Applicant has not stated where the support is in the specification, and the examiner can find no such support.

Claims 38, 39, 42-54, 57-59, 63, 64 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 63 and 64 are still confusing. The way the applicant has now amended the claims is confusing since it is not clear how the "at least some of said sex selected sperm cells" can be not frozen as in claims 63 and 64 and indeed frozen in the main claim, claim 38. If claim 38 requires that the "at least some of said sex selected sperms cells" are to be frozen then claims 63 and claim 64 fail to further limit claim 38.

It is not clear what is meant by, "without the presence of protective compounds in seminal plasma". What protective compounds ? What seminal plasma ?

Further, what is meant by , "to at least about 5 million per milliliter to at least about 10 million per milliliter of extender" ? Is this the concentration of the extender

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before it is applied to the sperm cells ? Is the 5 million referring to the number of sperm cells. So how much extender is added to each sperm cell ?

Further, the method of claim 38 is confusing because the preamble states that the method is a method of freezing and the end product of the process is thawed out.

It is also confusing how in step d) at least some of said sex-selected sperm cells are isolated to create a collection of sperm cells. In step b) the sperm cells were isolated when they were sorted. What is the difference ? Further, in step e) it is not clear which "said isolated sex-selected sperm cells" are being claimed. Is it the "at least some of said sex-selected" sperm cells from the beginning of step d) or the collection formed in the second part of step d) ? Further, in step c) what is meant by cooled ? Were they hot to begin with ?

Claim 42 has no antecedant basis for "said male mammal".

Claims 63 and 64 are confusing. First there is no antecedant basis for "the step of equilibrating at least some of said sex-selected sperm cells". What step is this ? Second, what temperature is cooler ? Cooler than what ? This is relative and subjective. There is no point of reference for one to compare it to.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 38, 39, 42-54, 57-59, 63, 64 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Salisbury et al. in view of Spaulding and Shrimpton.

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The newly amended claims still are obvious over the cited prior art of record. Applicant's limitation in claim 38 of "sorting said sperm cells, without the presence of protective compounds in seminal plasma" is met since the references never do this. Applicant has provided no arguments concerning this amendment or support from the specification to support such an amendment. The references are clear about their teachings which are of record.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael V. Meller whose telephone number is 571-272-0967. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Thursday: 9:30am-6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bruce Campell can be reached on 571-272-0974. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Meller', followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael V. Meller
Primary Examiner
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MVM